



January 17, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax 202-616-9937

Subject: Support for Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

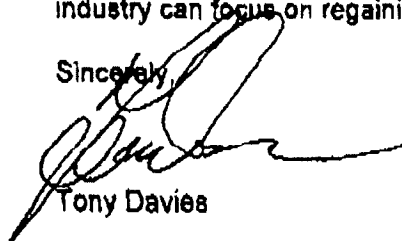
For more than 20 years, I have worked in different aspects of the waste management industry. During that time, I have seen dramatic changes in my industry as well as the overall economy. Certainly the use of technology has dramatically changed the way business is done. The waste industry is much more efficient and more capable of keeping track of equipment, waste sites and a variety of other aspects of our work because of technology.

I have watched the antitrust litigation against Microsoft with interest not only because of the impact on technology but also the impact it could have on innovation and product development. While not a panacea for the concerns voiced by computer makers and software developers, the proposed settlement agreement will give them new rights to configure Windows so that non-Microsoft products can be used. Microsoft has also agreed to the establishment of a technical committee to monitor progress of the settlement and to provide a venue for concerns of computer makers, software developers and consumers.

Microsoft will have the freedom to continue efforts to develop new and innovative products. Innovation is key in this country's ability to thrive in a global marketplace where foreign competitors try to replicate our products and sell them at cheaper prices to undercut our economic growth.

The proposed settlement agreement provide protections to all involved in this industry - Microsoft itself, its competitors, computer manufacturers, information technology providers and, most important of all, the consumer. From my own experience, I know how difficult it is to come up with a compromise. I encourage a quick resolution to the litigation so the technology industry can focus on regaining its competitive edge in the world economy.

Sincerely,



Tony Davies

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